Payment to casual news readers

†1905. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, in order to assist in the work of broadcasting of Hindi news bulletins on All India Radio, a panel of casual news-readers has been prepared;

(b) if so, whether all of them are called, in view of exigency of work; and

(c) whether they are paid timely for the services rendered by them, and if not, the reasons therefor and by when their dues would be paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that Hindi News Readers (casual) are called on rotational basis from the panel prepared by them keeping in view the exigency of work. Prasar Bharati have further informed that all efforts are being made by them to make the payment on time. All the News Readers (casual) who have submitted their contracts have been paid upto July, 2009. Prasar Bharati has also informed that the due payments in respect of casual News Readers (Hindi) booked during the current financial year will be cleared with in this financial year, *i.e.*, 2009-10.

FDI in DTH television services

1906. SHRI N.K. SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been actively considering to increase FDI in DTH television services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the increase in FDI in DTH television services could lead to a security threat to the nation;

(d) if so, whether Government has received any representations in this regard; and

(e) if so, the present status of the proposal to increase FDI in DTH television services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) On a reference made by the Government on 11.12.2007, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (RRAI) on 26.04.2008 submitted the recommendations on foreign investment limits for broadcasting sector. TRAI has recommended that the total foreign investment including FDI for DTH should be 74%. The details of the recommendations of TRAI are available at the website *(www.trai-gov-in)* of TRAI.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.